

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NEA-06

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APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SISCO

EUR/WE - MR. JOHNSON

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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R 311809Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T STATE 150163

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH ARAB RESISTANCE OFFICIAL

REF: ROME 7375, BEIRUT 8750

1. EMBASSY ROME SHOULD TELL FOREIGN MINISTRY WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING CARDILLI DRAW EL FIL OUT DISCREETLY ON INTENTION BEHIND HIS APPROACH. WE WOULD SUGGEST CARDILLI ASK EL FIL FOR COPIES OF PERIODICALS WHICH HE IS PROPOSING TO PROVIDE AND SAY THAT IF MATERIAL IS OF INTEREST SUBSCRIPTION MIGHT BE TAKEN UP - PURELY AS COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, NOT AS CONTRIBUTION OR DONATION - EITHER THROUGH DAMASCUS INTERESTS SECTION OR EMBASSY BEIRUT. CARDILLI MIGHT THEN SOUND EL FIL OUT ABOUT WHAT HE MEANT IN SAYING "SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE" RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE (PARA2 ROME 7375).

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2. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR, FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AND CARDILLI'S BACKGROUND, THAT USG HAS NO CONTACTS WITH FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS OR REPRESENTATIVES. WE DISAGREE WITH BOTH THEIR GOALS AND THEIR METHODS AND WOULD NOT WANT IN ANY WAY OR FASHION TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT WE VIEW FEDAYEEN AS SPOKESMEN FOR OR REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS. USG OF COURSE MAKES DISTINCTION BETWEEN CONTACTS WITH FEDAYEEN AND WITH INDEPENDENT PALESTINIANS; U.S. DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS AT NEAR EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN POSTS DO OF COURSE HAVE CONTACT WITH LOCAL PALESTINIANS IN COURSE OF NORMAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS OR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. OUR INTEREST IN PURSUING CONTACT WITH EL FIL (OTHER THAN POSSIBLE PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT) WOULD BE SOLELY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT APPROACH AND WHO HE REPRESENTS.

3. IF ITALIANS ARE WILLING TO GO AHEAD ON THIS BASIS, CARDILLI SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO SPEAK TO EL FIL ALONG LINES PARA 1 ABOVE. HE SHOULD SAY HE IS PURSUING EL FIL'S CONTACT ON PERSONAL BASIS AND IF ASKED SHOULD MAKE CLEAR HE HAS NOTHING TO CONVEY TO EL FIL FROM USG. ROGERS

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